المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

7 August 1992

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke, MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
Quen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

Dear Home Secretary,

There is an application for asylum in the UK currently in process with the Home Office by Khrigi Rashid (Ghennouchi), the leader of the Renaissance Party of Tunisia, registered under reference K410377 on 19 December 1991.

Shaikh Ghennouchi understands that his application is likely to take some time and he is meanwhile very concerned for the safety of his wife and children who are currently living in Algeria, where the situation has deteriorated seriously in recent months. He has applied to the UK authorities for permission to bring them to the UK to be with him at least until the outcome of his own case is known but has so far had no response.

I should like to ask you to consider this matter with sympathy and to authorise or support Shaikh Ghennouchi's request that his family be allowed to join him on a temporary basis. He has been known to me personally for many years and is a highly respected leader of his people who has been persecuted, imprisoned and threatened with death for his belief in democratic principles, the elimination of corruption and the respect of human rights. I believe that his concerns for the safety of his family cannot be exaggerated given the current situation in both Algeria and Tunisia.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

16, Grosvenor Crescent London SW1X 7EP Tel: 071-235 9832 Fax: 071-823 1590

For your files –

Immigration and Nationality Department

Lunar House 40 Wellesley Road
Croydon CR9 2BY

Telephone 081-760

HOME OFFICE ind

Your reference

Our reference G226752

Date 10 November 1993

Salem Azzam
Secretasry General
Islamic Councilk
16 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1X 1EP

Dear Mr Azzam

Thank you for your letter of 7 August 1992 expressing not only your support for the asylum application made by Khrigi Rashid (Ghennouchi), but also your concern for the safety of his family.

Mr Ghennouchi arrived in the United Kingdom on 28 November 1991 in possession of a Sudanese Diplomatic Passport issued in the name of Said Rashed Mohamed and was granted leave to enter this country for six months as a visitor. On 10 December 1991 his representatives Ferguson Snell Associates, Immigration Consultants, applied on his behalf for recognition as a refugee and asylum in the United Kingdom. The application was based on the claim that he had a well-founded fear of persecution in Tunisia by reason of his political opinion. As a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to its amending Protocol of 1967, the British Government were obliged to consider his claim. Mr Ghennouchi's family joined him in the United Kingdom on 1 December 1992 and were granted temporary admission pending a decision on the asylum claim.

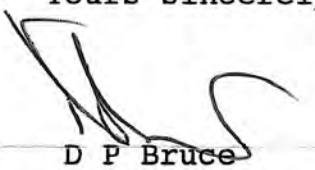
As I am sure you will appreciate a request for asylum is an important matter and all such applications are investigated thoroughly before a final decision is taken. In respect of the claim made by Mr Ghennouchi these investigations were necessarily long and involved, especially in the light of the representations made to us by the Tunisian Authorities.

You will be glad to hear that the application has now been fully considered and a decision reached. Mr Ghennouchi was formally recognised as a refugee on 3 August 1993 and granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom on this basis. His family have been granted leave in line with him as his dependants.

My apologies for the long delay in replying. This was caused not only by the necessarily long investigation of the claim, which included much consultation with other Government Departments, but

also by the fact that once the decision had been made, it was necessary to issue Mr Ghennouchi with a refugee Travel Document and your letter was inadvertently overlooked. The staff in the Division concerned have been reminded of the need to avoid such errors.

Yours sincerely



D P Bruce
B3 Division